



STATEMENT REGARDING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of the LESTER HAYDEN HOUSE

The Lester Hayden house, constructed in 1924, is one of 104 contributing resources within the Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill Local Historic District (LHD), established in 1991. Descriptions of the house and the Mount Gilboa Conservation Area are included in a Local Historic District study report, completed in 1991.

Some participants in the Mount Gilboa Feasibility Study process have questioned the architectural or historical significance of the house, based on information in an inventory form (Form B), prepared in 1980, prior to the LHD study report and establishment of the LHD. Inclusion in the LHD requires that a resource (in this case, a building) possess architectural and/or historical significance, and the Lester Hayden house was determined in the study report to possess both.

Since the form was created, standards for preparation of inventory forms documenting buildings, landscapes, and other resource types have been updated by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). This was highlighted in Arlington's 2019 Historic Preservation Survey Master Plan (Broomer and Frontiero): *As MHC survey standards have evolved, inventory form documentation has become more detailed and complex. On the technical side, narrative architectural descriptions are now required, historical research is expected to place the inventoried resource in the context of the broad patterns of the town's development, photographs should reflect current conditions, and digital location maps – ordinarily excerpts of a town planning map – have now replaced hand-drawn sketch maps on the inventory forms.* The Arlington Historical Commission, keeper of the town's inventory of historic and cultural resources, has adopted these new standards for all inventory work since the completion of the Survey Master Plan.

Updated inventory forms for both resources (Form B-Building and Form H-Parks & Landscape) will be prepared as part of the Mount Gilboa Feasibility Study adhering to the updated standards. The forms will then be reviewed by members of both the Arlington Historical and Historic Districts Commissions who will need to affirm the resources' significance, before acceptance by the town and final submittal to MHC.